



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
David A. Berns, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visit our DES web site at
www.azdes.gov

MEDIA CONTACT
Public Information Office
(602) 542-4296

The Arizona Foster Care and Adoption Coalition Present Appreciation Awards to Tucsonans

(Phoenix – November 1, 2005) Linda Cunningham of Tucson, an adoption subsidy supervisor with the Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families, was recognized by the Arizona Foster Care and Adoption Coalition for her nearly 20 years of dedicated work with the DES. She was nominated by Joy Smith, a certification worker in District V, which includes Pinal and Gila counties.

Julie Rosario, a supervisor with Catholic Social Services in Tucson, was also recognized for her dedicated work with adoptions. She was nominated by Sue Schmelz, adoption specialist with the state Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families.

Danielle Delacio, a Tucson foster parent, was recognized by the Coalition for her dedicated work with foster and adoptive children. Danielle was nominated by Elaine Whitmanbenner, a Child Protective Services specialist with the Department of Economic Security – Administration for Children Youth and Families.

Nominations were open to any individual in the state who continually “goes the extra mile” in assisting children achieve permanency in their home life. This was the fourth annual recognition event. The awards were presented during the Children Need Homes Conference sponsored by the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families. The theme of this year’s conference was “Through the Eyes of a Child: A Place to Belong.”

Ten awards were presented to Arizonans at the event. Recipients included Linda Brown of Phoenix, case aide with the Department of Economic Security – Administration for Children Youth and Families; Rachel Ostro of Phoenix, case manager with Child Protective Services; Lynne Van Gould of Mesa, licensing worker with the ARISE Agency; Carol and Ross Grimand of Hereford, foster parents; Gay Rubey of Phoenix, adoption case manager with the state Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities; Tim and Lynn McMurray of Mesa, foster and adoptive parents; and the Honorable Suzanna S. Cuneo of Tucson, Superior Court Commissioner, Pima County Juvenile Court.